

The Boston Globe

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

12,000 women, so many #MeToo moments

Even with no specific sessions on topic, harassment becomes conference theme

By Katie Johnston
GLOBE STAFF

The topic of sexual harassment was not officially on the agenda at the Massachusetts Conference for Women, but it was on the minds of many of the 12,000 attendees who flocked to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center on Thursday.

And how could it not be?

Even as they met at the largest women's conference in the nation, Democratic Senator Al Franken was announcing he would resign following allegations of sexual misconduct. The day before, Time magazine had unveiled the "silence breakers" who spoke up about sexual harassment as its "person of the year," and The New

York Times published a damning report on the widespread coverup surrounding Harvey Weinstein's sexual misdeeds. The special election for the Alabama Senate seat involving Republican candidate Roy Moore, who has been accused of making sexual advances on teenage girls, is days away.

"This is not a new story," said Shelley Zalis, chief executive of the Los Angeles corporate consulting firm the Female Quotient, who led a session on networking. "The new story is that we're using our voices and we feel comfortable now because we're all rallying together."

Conference organizers pointed out that while there weren't spe-

WOMEN, Page A12



JACQUELYN MARTIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKEN RESIGNS — Yielding to pressure from other Democrats, the Minnesota senator said Thursday that he will step aside in the coming weeks amid multiple allegations that he touched women inappropriately. **A2.**

Most city schools to get new start times

High schoolers will go in later, younger kids earlier

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF

In a move that will scramble the daily schedules of families across the city, nearly 85 percent of Boston's 125 schools will have new start times next fall, school officials announced Thursday night.

The changes aim to let more high school students sleep in and more elementary school students get out before sunset. Boston now joins a small but growing number of school systems in Massachusetts and across the nation that have pushed high school start times later in an effort to get students to school well rested and alert. The hope is that students will perform better academically.

To that end, some 94 percent of students in grades 7 through 12 will begin classes after 8 a.m. next fall, up from 26 percent this year. Among them: students at Boston Latin Academy in the Grove Hall area near the Dorchester-Roxbury line, which will go from having one of the earliest start times, 7:20 a.m., to one of the latest, 8:30 a.m.

Michael Maguire, a teacher at Boston Latin Academy who was among a group pushing for a later start, cheered the news.

"Honestly, kids are asleep at 7:30 in the morning, heads down or fuzzy-headed," he said in an in-

SCHOOLS, Page A8

When they leave but won't go



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

The leaves are plentiful on Boston Common, an unusual sight with winter just a couple of weeks away.

It's not your imagination — many trees are still covered, thanks to that summery fall

By Michael Levenson
GLOBE STAFF

To rake or not to rake? That is the question.

As the end of the year approaches and the days turn shorter and darker, fat bunches of iron-willed leaves are refusing to yield to wind and rain, stubbornly clinging to tree limbs like recalcitrant children holding fast to their parents' legs.

If you look up, or if you own a home with a yard, you'll see them: crusty, brittle, and brown.

"I don't particularly know what's going on, but they are hanging in," said Greg Kaknes, owner of Land-

scape Express in Roslindale. "They're just not giving way. And there are still a few types of trees that are fully coated in leaves."

This year, the balmy weather has scrambled the classic autumn script.

As a result, some tree species, particularly Norway maple, oak, and pear, are "not giving up the ghost in terms of winding up the growing season," said Richard W. Harper, extension assistant professor of urban forestry at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

"We're seeing leaves on trees 10, 20 days longer than normal and, in

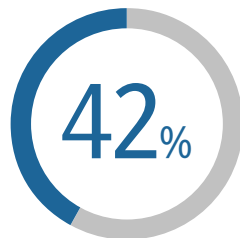
LEAVES, Page A8



Boston's fifth-warmest fall on record, coupled with a cold snap in early November that froze the cells involved in the process that cuts leaves off from a tree's nutrients at the end of the stem, has led to some species retaining their leaves longer into the season.

UNREPORTED INCIDENTS

A state audit found DCF officials were unaware of **42 percent** of serious incidents involving a sample of children in DCF care. They did not know, for example, that a 15-year-old suffered brain damage from a firearm injury or that a 1-year-old received serious burns on his body.



Audit finds DCF didn't report cases of alleged rape and abuse

By Andrea Estes and Laura Krantz
GLOBE STAFF

The Department of Children and Families failed to report rapes, abuse, and other alleged crimes committed against children in its care, according to a scathing audit to be released Thursday by state Auditor Suzanne Bump. And in many other cases, social workers didn't know that children they were monitoring had been badly hurt.

The audit, which covered 2014 and 2015, detailed 19 serious incidents — including rape, sexual abuse by a DCF-contracted employee, and multiple assaults — that harmed children in foster care and in other state-supervised settings, but were not reported to prosecutors. Several district attorneys told the auditor's staff they would have performed detailed investigations had DCF alerted them.

Far more frequently, the audit found that social workers had no idea that children in their care had

DCF, Page A8

Tax vote turns Collins backers sour

Health care advocates see betrayal; she says she got changes

By Victoria McGrane
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Susan Collins received a hero's welcome in Maine this summer after she stymied efforts by her fellow Senate Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Crowds applauded her at the airport. Activists brought her flowers and thank-you cards.

Less than six months later, protesters returned to the Bangor airport, hoping to greet her with signs declaring "Shame." Collins didn't show up. She remained in Washington last week after voting to support the Senate's tax cuts, dashing hopes among Democrats and activists that she would defy GOP leadership once again.

It has been a dizzying turnaround for the popular moderate, the only Senate Republican



Susan Collins said she's surprised by the outcry.

left from New England.

What dismayed health care advocates is part of the tax-cut legislation that wipes out a fundamental element of the federal health care law: the "individual mandate," which requires that all Americans either purchase insurance or pay a tax penalty.

"We're disappointed. Everyone's disappointed," said Marie Follayttar Smith, a cofounder of Mainers for Accountable Leadership, a liberal grass-roots group that has organized several protests in the past

COLLINS, Page A7



All you need is gloves

Friday: Cloudy, windy, cool. High 39-44. Low 29-34.

Saturday: Snow, cold. High 37-42. Low 26-31.

Sunrise: 7:01 Sunset: 4:11

Complete report, **B13.**

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Jews in Boston are divided over President Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. **B1.** In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian protesters clashed with Israeli soldiers and burned American flags. **A4.**

Bitcoin reached another new record, rising more than 50 percent just days after crossing the \$10,000 price. **B9.**

The first phase of the Fenway Center project is about to get underway after 15 years of delays and revisions. **B9.**

Former governor Deval Patrick will campaign in Alabama for Democrat Doug Jones against Republican Roy Moore. **B1.**



THE SHAPE OF WATER
GUILLERMO DEL TORO

Critic Ty Burr checks out the new films of two big-name directors, one at his peak and one long past it. **G1, G7.**



WONDER WHEEL
WOODY ALLEN

FBI Director Christopher Wray defended his agency's integrity in response to Republicans' accusations of bias. **A7.**

About 20 survivors gathered at Pearl Harbor to remember those killed 76 years ago. **A6.**